



Commercial Filming & Photography Information

Commercial filming is defined as digital or film recording of a visual image or sound recording by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience, such as for a documentary, television or feature film, advertisement, or similar project. Under Public Law 106-206 all commercial filming requires a permit and is subject to a location fee and cost recovery.

In Public Law 106-206, Congress expressed the importance of resource protection and provided that the permit request should be denied if:

- There is the likelihood that resource damage would occur that cannot be mitigated or restored under the terms and conditions of a permit;
- There is the likelihood of unreasonable disruption of or conflict with the public's use/enjoyment of the site;
- There is the likelihood that the activity poses health or safety risks to the public;
- There is the likelihood that the activity would result in the impairment of park resources or values;
- The requested activity will violate any other applicable Federal, State, or local law or regulation.

Application

A Special Use Permit application must be submitted before any commercial filming or photography project proposed within the boundaries of Zion National Park can receive consideration.

Applications are available by visiting:

<https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/commercial-filming-and-photography.htm>

If you are a crew of fewer than 5 persons and do not plan to use any cast, models, props or sets, you may use the "short form" application. If there is any doubt—use the "long form." Please COMPLETELY fill out the application (attached addendums are encouraged).

All applications must contain the following in order to receive consideration:

- Detailed information on the purpose of the project, the project's theme, and the names of organizations associated with the project (if subcontracted).
- Detailed information on all park areas (roads, trails, visitor centers, etc.) proposed for filming. Applicants should plan on conducting site visits and/or appropriate park research before submitting applications.
- Detailed information on the total number of cast, crew, and support staff associated with the project. Note that all projects are limited to a maximum group size of 12.
- Detailed information on equipment used to include cameras, camera mounts, crane/jibs/arms/tracks, camera accessories, lighting/generators, and vehicles used (both support and feature vehicles). Manned and unmanned (drones) aircraft are not compatible park uses (related to preservation of natural soundscapes and natural resource and visitor experiences) and are not authorized for use by the general public nor for commercial filming projects.
- Complete, sign, and send the permit application electronically to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov
- \$150.00 application fee must be submitted electronically through pay.gov by visiting: <https://pay.gov/public/form/start/77183133>



Timeline

Applications AND application fees MUST be received by the park a MINIMUM of three weeks (21 days) in advance of proposed dates in order to receive consideration.

Once the application and application fee are received, the proposed project will undergo a review to ensure that natural and cultural resources and/or visitor experiences will not be unduly impacted. If approved, the final permit along with conditions of permit will be sent to the applicant for their signature. Once countersigned, the permittee will need to send a copy back to the Special Park Use Office and will be responsible for coordinating project logistics related to film monitoring.

Fees

Application

A \$150 non-refundable application fee is required. Application fees must be submitted electronically through pay.gov by visiting: <https://pay.gov/public/form/start/77183133> .This covers the first three hours of administrative time spent processing/administering the permit which may include initial processing telephone/email conversations, developing permit conditions, coordinating project logistics, etc. Permits/projects that require more than three hours of administrative time for review, site visits, meetings or processing, will be charged at the rate of \$50.00 per hour.

Compliance

Additional compliance review may be required. A minimum \$250.00 fee is charged for proposals that require additional analysis. Compliance fees could apply to any proposal with the potential to have adverse effects on park resources and/or visitor experiences. Compliance fees cover the first five hours of staff time spent on additional compliance review.

Monitoring

Filming activities may be monitored by a qualified NPS employee to assure full compliance with all permit terms and conditions. The charge is \$ 50.00 per hour with a 3-hour minimum (\$150.00). Monitoring fees will be charged at the end of the filming or may be taken out of the performance bond if one was required.

Location

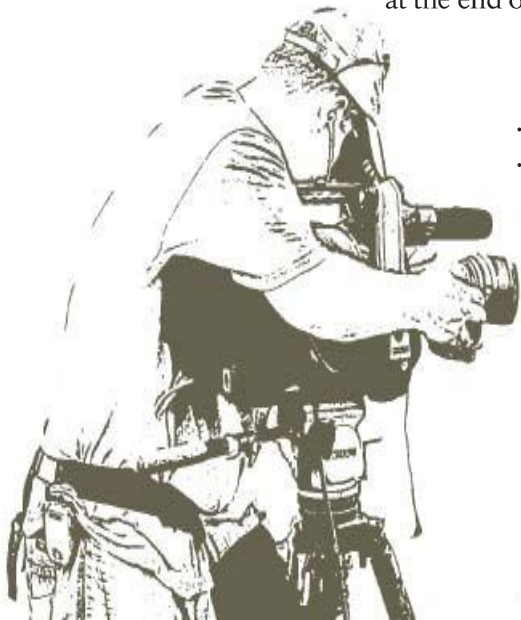
The National Park Service has implemented location fees effective May 15, 2006 as directed by Congress set by Public Law 106-206 in 1998. These fees are based on the number of cast/crew per day. These are NPS standards and are non-negotiable. Location fee for the minimum anticipated days is due two business days prior to filming date. Any additional days will be billed at the end of the filming.

Location Fees for Motion Pictures or Video

- 1-10 people \$150.00/day
- 11-12 people \$250.00/day

Location Fees for Commercial Still Photography

- 1-10 people \$50.00/day
- 11-12 people \$150.00/day



Insurance

General commercial liability insurance is required. A minimum of \$1,000,000 is required. Complex projects or projects with large cast/crews or sets will require additional insurance coverage. The "United States Government" must be named as "additional insured" on the insurance certificate. If further specificity is desired/requested: "the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Zion National Park." A copy of the insurance from the Carrier must be received PRIOR to issuing an approved permit.

The NPS may require additional insurance commensurate with the risk involved with your filming activities. IMPORTANT: The name on the certificate of insurance must match your business name, including any names used under "doing business as." The certificate should be emailed directly to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.

Performance Bond

Depending upon the complexity and scope of the project, a performance bond may be required to ensure that the area used is returned to the same state as prior to filming activities. The performance bond may also be used to deduct additional costs associated with the permit that may include, though not be limited to: additional administrative costs not associated with application fee, monitoring costs, maintenance of area post-filming/ production; and mitigation of natural and/or cultural resource damage.

Filming Locations



PERMITTED LOCATIONS:

- Kolob Canyons road corridor and associated pullouts and parking areas. Timber Creek Overlook Trail.
- Kolob Terrace road corridor and associated pullouts and parking areas (no trails authorized for commercial filming). Lava Point area including campground, picnic area and overlook.
- Main Zion Canyon area including road corridor from South Entrance to the Temple of Sinawava and associated overlooks, parking areas and most areas around Zion Lodge (open to the general public). Authorized Main Zion Canyon trails include the Pa'rus Trail, Watchman Trail, Emerald Pools Trail, Weeping Rock Trail, and Observation Point Trail (accessed from Weeping Rock Trailhead)
- Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway road corridor from Canyon Junction to the East Entrance and associated pullouts and parking areas. Authorized Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway trails include Canyon Overlook. Only the following pullouts/parking areas are authorized for projects utilizing more than one standard sized vehicle. Great Arch Pullouts (37°12'43.5"N 112°57'24.6"W and 37°12'42.8"N 112°57'21.6"W), Checkerboard Mesa Pullout (37°13'49.7"N 112°52'43.2"W), and East Entrance Monument Pullouts (37°14'07.1"N 112°51'52.6"W).

LOCATIONS NOT PERMITTED:

- Filming and Photography projects located within designated Wilderness or recommended wilderness areas. This includes all slot canyons.
- West Rim Trail (including Scout Lookout and Angels Landing). Riverside Walk Trail and Narrows Route. These areas are not currently permitted in order to address over-capacity issues occurring in these areas.

NOTE:

- Filming requests for areas not listed above are accepted, however a compliance review is required and there is no guarantee that a permit would be approved.
- The use of Drones is not authorized.
- Refer to Filming Zone Maps to see map of Potential Filming Areas.

Cancellation or Delays

Notification of initial delays or schedule changes for start of activities must be provided to the NPS at least five days in advance. Failure to provide adequate notification will result in a non-refundable minimum charge of \$150.00 for each person scheduled to monitor for the activity. (Charges may be waived on a case-by case basis in the event of uncontrollable acts of nature such as road closures due to fires, landslides, emergencies and park closures). Please keep in mind that the weather within the park changes and cannot be predicted. If rain/weather is an issue, you may want to consider including alternate "Rain Dates" in case weather is a factor for your project.

Additional Information

Additional information about Zion National Park may be found on our website at <https://www.nps.gov/zion>

Additional information for filming outside of Zion may be found at the Utah Film Commission website at <https://film.utah.gov/>

Still Photography

The decision to require a permit for still photography activities in a park is based on the activity itself as opposed to the eventual use of the image. Generally, permits are not required for still photography activities unless:

- The activity takes place at location(s) where or when members of the public are generally not allowed; or
- The activity uses model(s), set(s), or prop(s) that are not a part of the location's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities; or
- The park would incur costs for providing on-site management and oversight to protect park resource and minimize visitor use conflicts (If an activity has the potential to interfere with other park visitors, park activities, and/or impact park resources.)
- If none of these conditions exist, a permit is not required. We request that you contact us anyway so that we are aware of your activities and can provide you with the appropriate park information.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Photography of small wedding parties or family groups do not require a permit if the project does not include the conditions provided above. Permits are required for all weddings taking place inside Zion National Park. More information on the permitting process for weddings is available by visiting: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/weddings-in-zion-national-park.htm>



General Filming Permit Conditions (subject to change):

- Park staff may supervise all permitted activities within the park boundaries. The NPS onsite representative(s) possesses authority to make all supervisory decisions to assure compliance with the permit, applicable regulations, and NPS permit policies. The permittee must comply with any special instructions provided by the NPS onsite representative(s) or any requests for additional information.
 - a) Any expenses incurred by the NPS for such supervision shall be borne by the permittee, but may be waived by the Superintendent.
 - b) No employee of the NPS may work for the permittee in any capacity whatsoever while in uniform or if directly involved in supervision of the permittee.
 - c) NPS employees may not perform, or appear to perform, official duties for the purposes of the permitted activity unless such performance has been approved by the NPS.
 - d) No personal gratuity of any nature whatsoever shall be offered to any employee of the Government in connection with the exercise of the privilege granted.
- The permitted activity must be well planned and scheduled. Last minute changes will not be accommodated unless the changes are contingent upon weather or other emergency conditions and approved by the NPS onsite representative.
- This permit does not guarantee exclusive use of parklands. The permit area will remain open to the public during park visiting hours. Permit activities shall not unduly interfere with other park visitors' use and enjoyment of the area. Visitors will be permitted to observe the permitted activity.
- Credit may be given to the Department of the Interior or the NPS but credit must not state or imply NPS endorsement of commercial products.
- The permittee shall not depict any situations that conflict with NPS public use regulations.
- All law enforcement incidents, accidents, injuries and visitor confrontations shall be reported to the NPS onsite representative or NPS Dispatch at 435-772-3322. For emergencies, call 911 or 435-772-3322.
- No activity, including the arrival of vehicles and personnel, is permitted before or after designated hours.
- Permittee shall notify all crew members of permit stipulations and shall be responsible for their compliance.
- Permittee and crew shall communicate and interact with other visitors in a courteous, knowledgeable, and professional manner.
- Filming activities are only authorized in those areas noted on the face of this permit. Off-trail access must be authorized by the on-site NPS representative.
- Authorized equipment includes cameras, tripods, and reflectors. All equipment will be hand-carried.
- No generators or other fuel-operated equipment will be permitted
- Artificial lighting may be permitted during daylight hours only. Permission for lighting must be granted by the NPS special use permit coordinator or the NPS on site representative.
- No ground disturbing activities shall be allowed. Permittee shall not dig, scrape or remove natural features.
- Permittee shall not attach anything to any NPS facility, structure, rock or vegetation. Permittee shall not cover or remove signs, fences, or posts, etc.
- Permittee and crew shall dispose of all activity-generated refuse, including cigarette butts, properly.
- Use of drones or any other remote controlled Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) is prohibited.
- Only NPS liaison or on-duty Law Enforcement Supervisor or Chief Ranger may approve changes to the permit.
- Not Permitted:
 - a) Any filming and photography located within designated Wilderness or recommended Wilderness.
 - b) Stopping or parking in the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel is prohibited. Pedestrians are prohibited from entering the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel.
 - c) Traveling more than ¼ mile from the road in the section of the park east of the tunnel is prohibited.
- On-Camera Appearances by Employees
 - a) The employee selected must be approved and/or recommended by park management and is depicted performing his or her normal duties, or serving as a subject matter expert. Any request for interviewing a park employee shall be made a minimum of 1 business week in advance.
 - b) The employee is to be uniformed unless waived by Superintendent or designee.
 - c) The role is not scripted.
 - d) The employee is paid by the park as part of his or her regular working hours. The permittee will reimburse the park for this cost as part of the monitoring cost recovery.
 - e) Employees are forbidden from accepting gratuities.